



CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS

January 12

Annual Meeting – Dues for 2005 payable

April 6

Board of Directors Meeting

April 23

St. George's Day

June 6

61st Anniversary of
D-Day at the National D-Day
Memorial

June 15

Board of Directors Meeting

June 18-June 21

French Association members
visit Bedford

July 5

Student Exchange visit hosted
by BIA

July 16

Bastille Day

September 1-7

British citizens visit to
Bedford

September 21

Board of Directors Meeting

November 2

Board of Directors Meeting;
2005 planning and plans for
Member Social Event

December

Holiday Social for members

Visit our website to see
the latest updates:

www.bedfordva.gov/alliance

Changing of the Guard — New Leadership for the BIA

"We made the connections. We took the first steps to help get the alliance started," outgoing President of the Bedford International Alliance (BIA) Mike Shelton told members at the January 12 Annual Meeting at the Bedford Visitor's Center. "We now have lasting friendships in other nations. But the work done in the last few years has been just the start. It's time now for new officers to move this organization forward."

That was the task charged to the incoming officers of the BIA. The outgoing executive officers, Tom Messier, Jack Gross, and Mike Shelton have served the group since its inception in 1996. They were in agreement that it was time to step down and bring new leaders to the forefront.

The new leaders, see page two for the list of officers and directors, will continue the mission of our organization - to promote and broaden awareness, understanding, and appreciation for the rich historical legacy between Bedford County and the City of Bedford and certain towns, villages, and communities in Normandy, France and in England.

All members are encouraged to take an active role in the Alliance and to work to make its mission a reality.



Incoming Chairman Bob Bashore (left) thanked Tom Messier for many years of service to the BIA and presented him with a commemorative plaque.



Incoming President Al Vincent (right) thanked Jack Gross and presented him with a commemorative plaque.



Bob Bashore also thanked Mike Shelton and presented him with a commemorative plaque.

Bedford International Alliance

2005 Board of Directors

1 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/05

Bob Bashore	Joe Humphrey	Julie Mayhew
Lucille Boggess	Nancy Johnson	Charlene McFall
Gloria Gross	Craig Meadows	Helen Pope

2 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/06

Meg Ballard	Nanci Drake	Nita Holt
Pearl Broesamle	Patty Mason Goggin	Teresa Stanley
Lee Ann Carr	Milton Graham	Al Vincent

3 Year Directors – Term Expires 12/31/07

Will Berry	Tom Messier	Mike Shelton
Jack Gross	Sam Broesamle	Joe Beverly
Connie Messier	Bill Pickett	Charlotte Vincent

2005 Officers

- Chairman Bob Bashore
- Vice-Chairman Craig Meadows
- President..... Al Vincent
- First Vice-Pres. –
- USS Normandy Teresa Stanley
- Second Vice-Pres. –
- France..... Nita Holt
- Third Vice-Pres. –
- England Pearl Broesamle
- First Secretary –
- Recording Gloria Gross
- Second Secretary –
- Communications..... Milton Graham
- First Treasurer Meg Ballard
- Second Treasurer..... Connie Messier

Responsibilities for Key Unity Building Committees

Bedford / England Unity Committee

This committee has two distinct localities on which to concentrate to address relationship plans with - Woburn, England and Ivybridge, England. Activities of this committee are designed to continue to build the relationship with these two communities and Bedford. Plans are underway for the first visit, in September, by members of the British group to Bedford.

Bedford / Normandy Unity Committee

Continue to build the relationship with the Omaha Beach-Bedford Association. This very active relationship was first forged in 1997 and continues to strengthen to this day. The Alliance has traveled to the Omaha Beach communities in 1998, 2002, and 2004. Friends from Normandy visited Bedford in 2000, 2001 and 2002 and will be visiting again this year in June. There are now 12 villages in the French Alliance: St. Laurent sur Mer, Colleville sur Mer, Trévières, Colombières, Louvières, Vierville sur Mer, Formigny, Asnières en Bessin, Englesqueville la Percée, Cricqueville en Bessin, Ste Honorine des Pertes, and St. Pierre du Mont.

Student Exchange Committee

This committee is developing the guidelines and activities for ongoing student exchange programs with our British and French counterparts. In 2004, five Bedford students traveled to and learned in France and England. In 2005, we are planning for visits from both British and French students in July. The effort of this committee fulfills one of the major commitments of the Bedford International Alliance for education and youth involvement.

Bedford / USS Normandy Committee

The USS Normandy is a guided missile cruiser in the United States Navy. The Chaplain and the Executive Officer of the USS Normandy made contact with Bedford's City Manager in 2001 and have visited Bedford. A formal relationship was established due to Bedford being the home community for the National D-Day Memorial. Alliance members and representatives of the National D-Day Memorial Foundation have visited the USS Normandy in Norfolk and spent time cruising the Atlantic Ocean on two occasions. In exchange, it is planned for Bedford to host visits from the sailors and officers of the USS Normandy while they perform services for the National D-Day Memorial.

Two New Villages Join French Association

The Normandy coast line is 360-mile of dramatic coastline, including the dramatically evocative World War II landing beaches, with a verdant interior of lush farmland, bustling market towns, and historic landmarks such as the cities of Caen, Bayeux and Rouen. Gastronomic delights abound, from fine cheese to cider and Calvados.

Ten villages from this region comprise the French Association, the equivalent to our Bedford International Alliance. The villages in the Association are twinned with Bedford. Those villages are:

St. Laurent sur Mer
Colleville sur Mer
Trévières
Colombières
Louvières
Vierville sur Mer
Formigny
Asnières en Bessin
Englesqueville la Percée
Cricqueville en Bessin

On January 15th, two new villages, Ste HONORINE des PERTES and St. PIERRE du MONT, joined the Association. Following the formal signing of the charter, members celebrated with a twelfth night cake. This is a rich cake traditionally served on the 12th Day of Christmas at a feast celebrating the official end of the winter holiday season



The Mayors of the new villages, seated above, signed the charter to become members of the French Association while the Mayors of the original villages looked on.



Members of the French Association watched the signing.

Officer of the French Association

Bertrand Le Jemtel President
Alain Vaganay 1st Vice-President
Daniel Lebrec 2nd Vice-President
Marie-France Benoist Director Communication
Marie-Noëlle Auvray Treasurer
Jacqueline Moraine Assistant Treasurer
Patricia Pineau Secretary
Jean-Pierre Chedal Assistant Secretary
Philippe Ygouf Honorary President of the Association

Normandy from a resident —



What is winter like in your part of France? Do you get any snow?



Normandy: it is a region that includes 5 departments. We live in the one of Calvados. The winter is here moderate, that is to say that it is not too cold here. At the moment it makes vicinity 2° C (late February), it especially snows beyond 20 kilometers from the sea but the layer remains thin, it melts in the day. As the winter is soft, the summer is not very hot: between 20° and 22° C.

Thanks to Marie-Noëlle Auvray.

We Welcome French Friends to Bedford in June

The Bedford International Alliance and its members will greet around 50 people from Normandy this year in June. Our visitors will be arriving on Saturday, June 18 and leave on Tuesday morning, June 21. Many families in our area have volunteered to be host families for the French, but if you would like to volunteer, please do so by contacting any member of the Executive Committee.

Our guests will be here for Father's Day, and we encourage our host families to make them feel at home by including them in their

celebrations. For a real treat, the BIA will sponsor a huge Sunday evening picnic at Liberty Lake Park in Bedford. Information will be mailed in May letting everyone know what to bring (salads, vegetables and desserts). The BIA will provide the meat, drinks, and all picnic supplies. All members are welcome to bring the entire family to meet and get to know our visitors from France.

Members are also invited to attend the ceremonies at the D-Day Memorial on Monday morning, the catered lunch at the Bedford

Visitor's Center, and the dinner cruise on the Virginia Dare that evening. Those who do attend will have to pre-register and pay for their own meals. The registration form and the meal costs will be in the May letter to members.

Fundraising activities are also underway. If you would like to make a contribution or help with the fund raising, please let a member of the Executive Committee know.

Please join us in welcoming friends from Normandy. Let's make their trip a memorable one.



Tentative Agenda

Saturday, June 18.Arrival in Bedford, greeted by the BIA, and go home with the host families.

Sunday, June 19. This day will be a day for the host families and the French visitors to get to know each other. An evening picnic for visitors and all BIA members who wish to attend will be held at the Liberty Lake Park in Bedford.

Monday, June 20. Meet at 9:30 for ceremonies at the D-Day Memorial with French visitors.

Formal welcome to the City of Bedford and Bedford County, recognition of the two new villages, wreath laying by the French visitors, educational program, and time to walk around the Memorial and through the gift shop.

Tour Visitor's Center and catered lunch. BIA members are welcome to join the group for lunch at the Visitor's Center.

Afternoon tour of Bedford or back home with host families to rest.

Meet at Liberty Lake Park around 5:30 for a trip to Smith Mountain Lake for dinner cruise on the Virginia Dare. BIA members are welcome to join the group for dinner on the Virginia Dare.

Tuesday, June 21. Departure from Liberty Lake Park in Bedford for airport and home to France

A trip they would like to do again —

“We had a great time.”

Each of the five Bedford students who went to France with the Bedford International Alliance in June of 2004 agreed that the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “I had a great time” and “I want to go back” were statements heard from each of the students.

Those students and their chaperones reported on the success of their trip

at the January Annual Meeting of the Bedford International Alliance at the Bedford Visitor’s Center.

Julie Mayhew presented a report to the group, showing slides of the various events and ceremonies the students took part in.

2005 Student Exchange

For 2005, the BIA is expecting

students from England and France to visit Bedford in early July and stay at least two weeks. The Student Exchange Committee is now planning for the visit, working with their counterparts in England and France, arranging housing for the students in Bedford and working on the itinerary. Details of the visit will be reported in the next newsletter.



Isaac Podyma, center above, told BIA members a little bit about his experiences in France while Brittany Bolling and Christopher Hartford looked on.

Five students were chosen in the fall of 2004 as the first Bedford students to visit England and France. These young people were Bedford’s ambassadors in June of 2005, traveling with adult members of the BIA to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day. They, along with their chaperones, remained in France for two weeks after the other BIA members returned home. They visited several towns and schools in the region, meeting with and learning from the French.



BIA members and French teachers Helen Pope, on the far left and, Julie Mayhew, on the far right, served as chaperones and guides for students (left to right) Brittany Bolling, Isaac Podyma, Christopher Hartford, Joseph Philbrick, Erin Gilhuly.



2005 Membership Renewal

It's now time to renew your membership in the Bedford International Alliance. Please make your check payable to the "Bedford International Alliance" and mail it to the Treasurer. You must have your dues payment up-to-date in order to participate in the activities of the Alliance.

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE # _____ WORK PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES) _____

Mail to: Meg Ballard, Treasurer, 995 Ashland Avenue, Bedford, VA 24523

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